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Abstract of the Disclosure

A bridged virtual LAN (VLAN) has a number of segments connected by a connection-based network such as an ATM network. Multicast data originating in a first one of the segments is carried to two or more other segments by a point-to-multipoint virtual channel configured in the connection-based network. A separate point-to-point virtual channel may be provided for other data and bidirectional control signals. The segments may be ethernet segments with data flow over the point-to-multipoint virtual channel being unidirectional. Ethernet frames may be carried by a protocol such as AAL5.